

“Triple Play”

Fall 2003 BT Exercise Overview



www.ncpublichealth.com

Steve Cline, DDS, MPH

Chief, Epidemiology Section

North Carolina Division of Public Health

Raleigh, NC

State Exercise Objectives

- Involve many levels of government and many organizations
- Exercise with maximum realism/minimum artificiality
- Identify weaknesses
 - Planning
 - Training
 - Organization

Contractor Activities

- Develop scenario
- Provide exercise materials
- Provide observer/controllers
- Conduct exercise
- Provide After Action Review

Exercise Calendar - 2003

- Funding Approval May
- Partner Preparation May - August
- Initial Planning Meetings September
- Final Planning Meeting October
- Phase I Exercise October 22-24
- Phase II Exercise November 12-14
- Phase III Exercise December 11

Planning Parameters

- Simulation/Exercise Play is continuous, with pauses between Phases I, II and III
- Phase I ends at Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Request
- Phase II begins at SNS Receipt
- Phase III - tabletop session on recognition and implementation of need to quarantine and isolation

Planning Parameters (cont)

- Organizations
 - maintain own command and control
 - establish own exercise objectives
 - participation is voluntary in all phases
- Hours of operation are normal duty
 - unless organizations decide to exercise outside normal duty hours
- Exercise Play is “real time”

Planning Parameters (cont)

- Primarily a scripted exercise, not free play
- Scenario shaped to “drive” play at multiple points
- Information flows critical to:
 - effective plan evaluation
 - synchronization
 - realism

Scenario Parameters

- Covert bioterrorism attacks
 - Human
 - Animal
- State at PHP&R Plan Phase I (Baseline)
- Exercise begins with detection of unusual disease occurrence
- “Events” were at least one incubation period earlier

Selection Factors for the Exercise Agent

- Communicable person-to-person
 - Requiring Quarantine/isolation
- Treatable
 - Requiring Mass Care
- Preventable with post-exposure prophylaxis
 - Requiring the Strategic National Stockpile
- Short incubation period
 - Rapid evolution of outbreak

Exercise Phase I

Major Events

(October 22-24)

- Day 1: Detection of disease occurrence
- Day 2: Investigation and identification of agent
- Day 3: Request for SNS and Hot wash

Exercise Phase I

Major Plan Components

(October 22-24)

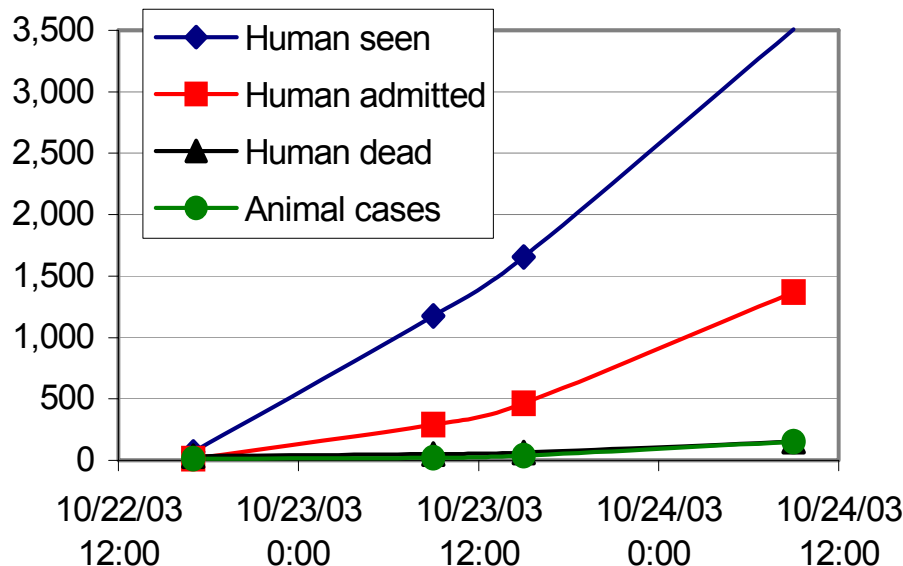
- Surveillance
- Disease Investigation
- Mass Care (Medical Logistics)
- Public Information
- Command/Control/Communications

Triple Play Phase I

TRIPLE PLAY SCENARIO

The TRIPLE PLAY scenario began with a notional release of *Yersinia pestis* (the bacteria that causes plague) by a fictional terrorist organization at an exotic pet show held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Using vehicles equipped with industrial spraying devices, the terrorists released the agent near entrances to the show. The exercise timeline began the following day with initial cases of upper respiratory infection beginning to be reported.

The cumulative case counts over the course of the exercise are shown in the chart below. By 9:00 am on day 3 of the exercise, there were 3,507 human cases of plague. Of those, 1,370 had been hospitalized and 153 were dead. By this time, there were also 152 animal cases, involving a wide variety of animal species.



Triple Play Phase I



Exercise Phase II

Major Events

(November 12-14)

- Day 1: Receipt of SNS at Primary Reception and Staging Site (RSS)
- Day 2: Distribution to Secondary Distribution Sites (SDS)
 - Dispensing Sites
- Day 3: Mass Prophylaxis and Hot wash

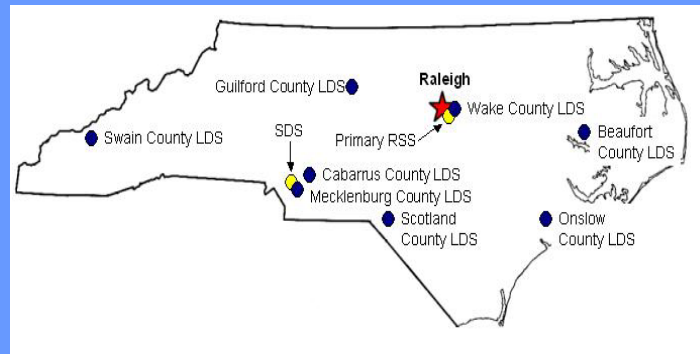
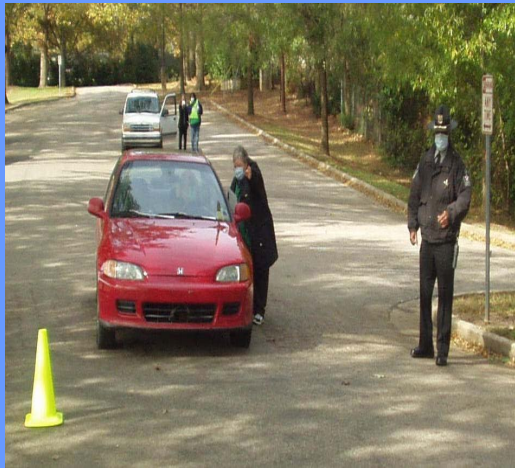
Exercise Phase II

Major Plan Components

(November 12-14)

- Vaccination/Prophylaxis
- Mass Care (Medical Logistics)
- Public Information
- Command/Control/Communications

Triple Play Phase II



Exercise Phase III

Major Events

(December 11)

- Identification of requirements and authorities
 - Quarantine
 - Isolation
 - Community Control Measures (“Snow Days”)
- Quarantine/Isolation Practical Exercise
- Lifting of Quarantine

Exercise Phase III

Major Plan Components

(December 10-12)

- Disease Investigation
- Quarantine/Isolation
- Public Information
- Command/Control/Communications

Triple Play Phase III

Seminar Wargame

(December 11, 2003)

- Variety of agencies at local and state levels play a role in Quarantine & Isolation
 - State public health team
 - Local health departments
 - SERT and DEM
 - Courts
 - Law enforcement
 - Governor's office
- Draft Q&I plan was developed and further revised

Tab D to Appendix 7 to Annex B

NC Emergency Operations Plan

Triple Play 2003

Outline

- October-Phase I: Bioterrorism investigation and response
 - Surveillance
 - Disease investigation
 - Public information
 - SNS planning and request
 - C3
- November-Phase II: Distributing the SNS
- December-Phase III: Quarantine and Isolation
- **AAR and Lessons Learned**

Lessons Learned

- ICS for a reason
- Refine SOP's at every opportunity
- Large outbreak WILL overwhelm the system
- SNS Medication “headaches”
- SNS for animals?
- Communication, communication, . . .
- Partners key to Q and I

“Triple Play” Exercise

*North Carolina Public Health
Preparedness and Response*

Thank you

